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**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for updating operational parameters of a monitoring agent on a client in a distributed data processing system, the monitoring agent monitoring characteristics of at least one application executing on a server in the distributed data processing system, the method  
10 comprising the steps of:

filtering, by the monitoring agent, network data from the client to the server;

- determining, by the monitoring agent, whether an outgoing transaction in the network data is addressed such  
15 that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent; and

- in response to a positive determination that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application  
20 on the server receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent, sending a request from the monitoring agent to the server to send to the monitoring agent an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, at the monitoring agent, the update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent; and

- storing updated operational parameters on the client in  
30 a manner accessible to the monitoring agent.

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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

parsing the outgoing transaction for a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI);

matching the URI with a URI stored as an operational  
5 parameter of the monitoring agent on the client; and

providing an indication that the outgoing transaction  
is addressed such that the server receives the outgoing  
transaction as a request to change the operational  
parameters of the monitoring agent.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the URI is a Uniform  
Resource Locator (URL) embedded within a Hypertext Transport  
Protocol (HTTP) request.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the request for an  
update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent  
is addressed with a URI stored as an operational parameter  
of the monitoring agent on the client.

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6. A method for updating operational parameters of a  
monitoring agent on a client in a distributed data  
processing system, the monitoring agent monitoring  
characteristics of at least one application executing on a  
server in the distributed data processing system, the method  
25 comprising the steps of:

filtering, by the monitoring agent, network data from  
the client to the server;

determining, by the monitoring agent, whether an  
outgoing transaction in the network data is addressed such  
30 that an application on the server receives the outgoing  
transaction; and

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in response to a positive determination that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction, sending a request from the monitoring agent to the server to send to the monitoring agent an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

parsing the outgoing transaction for an Internet

10 Protocol (IP) address;

matching the IP address with an IP address stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client; and

15 determining that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction.

8. A data processing system comprising a monitoring agent, the monitoring agent monitoring characteristics of at least one application executing on a server, the data processing system further comprising:

filtering means for filtering, by the monitoring agent, network data from the client to the server;

25 determining means for determining, by the monitoring agent, whether an outgoing transaction in the network data is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent; and

30 sending means for sending, in response to a positive determination that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing

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transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent, a request from the monitoring agent to the server to send to the monitoring agent an update of the operational parameters of the  
5 monitoring agent.

9. The data processing system of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving means for receiving, at the monitoring agent,  
10 the update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent; and

storing means for storing updated operational parameters on the client in a manner accessible to the monitoring agent.

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10. The data processing system of claim 8 further comprising:

parsing means for parsing the outgoing transaction for a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI);

20 matching means for matching the URI with a URI stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client; and

providing means for providing an indication that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that the server  
25 receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

11. The data processing system of claim 10, wherein the URI is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) embedded within a  
30 Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP) request.

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12. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the request for an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent is addressed with a URI stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client.

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13. A data processing system comprising a monitoring agent, the monitoring agent monitoring characteristics of at least one application executing on a server, the data processing system further comprising:

10       filtering means for filtering, by the monitoring agent, network data from the client to the server;

          determining means for determining, by the monitoring agent, whether an outgoing transaction in the network data is addressed such that an application on the server receives  
15       the outgoing transaction; and

          sending means for sending, in response to a positive determination that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction, a request from the monitoring agent to the  
20       server to send to the monitoring agent an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

14. The data processing system of claim 13 further comprising:

25       parsing means for parsing the outgoing transaction for an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

          matching means for matching the IP address with an IP address stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client; and

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determining means for determining that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction.

- 5 15. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for updating operational parameters of a monitoring agent on a client in the data processing system, the monitoring agent monitoring characteristics of at least one application executing on a
- 10 server in the data processing system, the computer program product comprising:
- instructions for filtering, by the monitoring agent, network data from the client to the server;
  - 15 instructions for determining, by the monitoring agent, whether an outgoing transaction in the network data is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent; and
  - 20 instructions for sending, in response to a positive determination that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent, a request from the monitoring agent to the server to send to the monitoring
  - 25 agent an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

16. The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising:

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instructions for receiving, at the monitoring agent, the update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent; and

instructions for storing updated operational parameters  
5 on the client in a manner accessible to the monitoring agent.

17. The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising:

10 instructions for parsing the outgoing transaction for a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI);

instructions for matching the URI with a URI stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client; and

15 instructions for providing an indication that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that the server receives the outgoing transaction as a request to change the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

20 18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the URI is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) embedded within a Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP) request.

25 19. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the request for an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent is addressed with a URI stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client.

30 20. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for updating operational parameters of a monitoring agent on a client in

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the data processing system, the monitoring agent monitoring characteristics of at least one application executing on a server in the data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for filtering, by the monitoring agent, network data from the client to the server;

instructions for determining, by the monitoring agent, whether an outgoing transaction in the network data is addressed such that an application on the server receives  
10 the outgoing transaction; and

instructions for sending, in response to a positive determination that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction, a request from the monitoring agent to the  
15 server to send to the monitoring agent an update of the operational parameters of the monitoring agent.

21. The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:

20 instructions for parsing the outgoing transaction for an Internet Protocol (IP) address;

instructions for matching the IP address with an IP address stored as an operational parameter of the monitoring agent on the client; and

25 instructions for determining that the outgoing transaction is addressed such that an application on the server receives the outgoing transaction.